



Home About Us Get Involved Case Studies Resources PPG Map Media Contact Us

Patients

Why get involved?

- How to join a PPG
- How to set up a PPG
- FAQs

Professionals

- Why get involved?
- Practices
- Primary Care Trusts
- Other individuals and organisations
- FAQs

Existing PPGs

- Further sources of support
- FAQs

Why should I get involved?

If you're interested in having a say in the way your local health services are delivered, getting involved with your practice's PPG is a great place to start.

No training is required to be a member of a PPG – the most important thing is that you are keen and focused on taking positive action to help the practice and the local patient population.

All PPGs are different, but generally involvement tends to include attendance at monthly, bimonthly or quarterly meetings. Some PPG members will choose to take on additional roles that are more time consuming, such as editing/contributing to the PPG newsletter or setting up and running health education or fundraising events, but if you have less time available, this isn't a requirement.

Not only can joining or starting a group help to shape the delivery of services, many members also find that volunteering is a great way to meet new people and develop your own skills, such as negotiation, dealing with people or even speaking in public.

So, if this sounds like something for you, [here's a quick guide to how you can get involved.](#)

Latest News

- » New PCT Newsletter: how PCTs are supporting PPGs
- » Communications toolkit for PPGs: available now
- » Making a Difference fund: winners announced

Useful Documents

- » Promoting quality and responsiveness
- » 21 ways to help your practice thrive
- » A step by step guide to setting up a PPG

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“ The PPG was established... to represent the patients' interests to the practice and to act as a sounding board for ideas suggested by the practice. ”

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How to join a PPG

If you are interested in getting involved, the first step is to find out if your practice already has an established PPG. Below are some simple steps to get you started:

Here are some tips on getting started:

- **Speak to the practice manager:** If you're not sure whether your local GP surgery has a PPG, either look out for information and posters about the group in the surgery, or ask the reception staff or the practice manager, who is likely to be involved in running the group.
- **Sign up:** All PPGs are different and recruit members in different ways, but any group will be keen to hear from interested individuals. It's a usual requirement to be registered at the practice in order to become a member. Your practice manager will be able to give you details of who to contact to sign up, and when the next meeting is taking place.
- **Two's company:** If you're nervous about going alone, why not encourage a friend to go with you?
- **Take action:** Most groups meet on a regular basis at the surgery itself to give patients, GPs and practice staff an opportunity to meet, to exchange ideas and information, and then to take action.
- **Share your ideas:** Be prepared to give your opinion about the way the practice is run, and any thoughts you have on how things could be improved – from the welcome patients get when they arrive at the practice, to the parking facilities or the appointments systems, the group and the practice will be keen to hear your views.

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